



Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

2nd Sunday of Lent - Year B

Violet

The 'Transfiguration'

Romans 8:31, 38-39 Psalm 103 Mark 9:2-10



Where do you pray?

When Jesus wanted to pray he would often find a quiet, peaceful place away from the crowds, where he could be alone with his heavenly father. What place did Jesus take his friends to, to pray? What happened to Jesus when he prayed? We call this the 'Transfiguration.' Jesus was covered in God's glory, just as he would be in heaven, and God's approval for him was apparent. These disciples would remember this later when Jesus was put to death.

Leader's Preparation

In preparation for leading this celebration begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the Second Sunday of Lent, starting with the Gospel. (You may choose to use or focus on one reading only, but remember that the Gospel may not be omitted.) Then look through the preparatory material that follows and familiarise yourself with the Liturgy Outline.

GOSPEL

Mark 9:2-10

Jesus took Peter, James, and John with him and went up on a high mountain, where they could be alone. There in front of the disciples, Jesus was completely changed. And his clothes became much whiter than any bleach on earth could make them. Then Moses and Elijah were there talking with Jesus. Peter said to Jesus, "Teacher, it is good for us to be here! Let us make three shelters, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." But Peter and the others were terribly frightened, and he did not know what he was talking about. The shadow of a cloud passed over

and covered them. From the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, and I love him. Listen to what he says!" At once the disciples looked around, but they saw only Jesus.

As Jesus and his disciples were coming down the mountain, he told them not to say a word about what they had seen, until the Son of Man had been raised from death. So they kept it to themselves. But they wondered what he meant by the words "raised from death."

FIRST READING

Romans 8:31, 38-39

Brothers and Sisters:

What can we say about all this? If God is on our side, can anyone be against us?

I am sure that nothing can separate us from God's love – not life or death, not angels or spirits, not the present or the future, and not powers above or powers below.

Nothing in all creation can separate us from God's love for us in Christ Jesus our Lord!

PSALM

Psalm 103

Response: **The Lord is kind and merciful**

With all my heart I praise the Lord, and with all that I am I praise his holy name!

With all my heart I praise the Lord! I will never forget how kind he has been. **R.**

The Lord is merciful! He is kind and patient, and his love never fails.

How great is God's love for all who worship him?

Greater than the distance between heaven and earth! **R.**

Scriptures from the Lectionary for Masses with Children (CEV)
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Background to the Readings for Leaders

The Hebrew tradition doesn't offer a definitive view of the nature of God. Jesus' own intimate relationship with God offers a more comprehensive picture of God's own nature – forgiving, loving, healing, redeeming. The ancient stories, much like the parables of Jesus, call us to think very seriously about who God is. In today's gospel Jesus is beginning his journey towards Jerusalem and the fate that waits him there. But the start of that journey is delayed by this awesome moment of revelation that we know as the Transfiguration – the moment when Jesus is glorified and revealed as the beloved Son of God, Messiah. This event is traditionally associated with Mt Tabor, and the voice from heaven echoed those words spoken at the baptism of Jesus. The appearance of Moses and Elijah links Jesus with the expectations the Jewish people. Moses, representing the Law, and Elijah, the prophets, looked forward to God's supreme intervention in human affairs (Jesus). The desire of the disciples to preserve the moment by building shelters was in contrast to Jesus' aim of continuing the journey to its final outcome. Following this completion, the significance of this vision would become apparent.

Images from the Readings

- High Mountain
- Three tents
- God on our side
- Cloud
- Listen to him

Reflection for Leaders

Last week we explored the temptations experienced by the very human nature of Jesus. Today's text explores the event of the Transfiguration, which affirms the dual nature of Jesus as both man and God. This duality of nature is often difficult for us to comprehend; however it is one of the foundational beliefs of the Church. We must not repeat the reluctance of the disciples to believe and understand. We already have the whole picture. Just as Jesus was revealed as the beloved Son of God, we too can take our place as beloved children of God. What glimpses of the glory of God do you see in your daily life? Can you recall an experience, which has revealed another person to you in a completely new light? Or, being able to see attributes in someone that you had previously been unaware of? During this week, try as a follower of Jesus, to respond to people with greater generosity, forgiveness, acceptance and love.



Reflecting on the Readings with the children

Before Sunday read over the suggested discussion points given in the Leader's Liturgy Outline. With the 8-12 year olds: First, listen to the children's own responses to the Reading/s and then, if needed, use some of the discussion starters suggested.

With the 5-7 year olds: Adapt some of the questions in the 8-12 material and then join with the older group for the 'Liturgical Action'.

Suggested Focus

Prepare a focus for the area where the children's Liturgy of the Word is to be held: Violet cloth, Lectionary, a candle, and an icon of Jesus ...



LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

2nd Sunday of Lent - Year B

At a suitable moment after the Opening Rites, but before the First Reading is proclaimed, the children are presented with the Children's Lectionary and a candle and sent, with their ministers, to the place where they will celebrate their own Liturgy of the Word, with words of dismissal such as the following:

INVITATION – Pōwhiri I invite the children to join in the procession for their celebration of the Liturgy of the Word.

To the Minister of the Word: Receive this Book of Readings and proclaim God's Word faithfully to the children entrusted to your care.

Receive this candle as the light of Christ who is present in his Word.

PROCESSION WITH THE BOOK OF READINGS – Te Kapa o te Pukapuka Tapu

WELCOME – Ko te whakatau

Leader: O God, we want to do your will for us, but often we find it too difficult. When you tell us in our hearts what we should do give us the courage to say yes.

R Amen.

First Reading: Romans 8:31, 38-39

(if used)

The Word of the Lord / Ko te Kupu a te Ariki

Thanks be to God / Whakamoemiti ki te Atua

Psalms 103

Response: The Lord is kind and merciful

(or another suitable response known by the children)

Praise the God of all com- pas- sion, Lord of hea - ven, Lord of earth.

He is king of all cre - a- tion, he is mer - cy, he is love.

Gospel: Mark 9:2-10

Minister of the Word:

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

Children:

Glory to you, O Lord / Korōria ki ā koe, e te Ariki

At the end of the Gospel:

The Gospel of the Lord

Children:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ / Kia whakanuia rā koe, e te Ariki, e Hēhu Karaiti.

REFLECTING ON THE READINGS WITH THE CHILDREN – Whai Whakaaro

8-12 year olds: *Suggested Beginning: A good place to begin is with the question: What did you hear? Allow each child the opportunity to respond in their own words to hearing the Word of God. Then begin a general discussion, building on these responses, perhaps using some prepared questions, like the following, to stimulate ideas.*

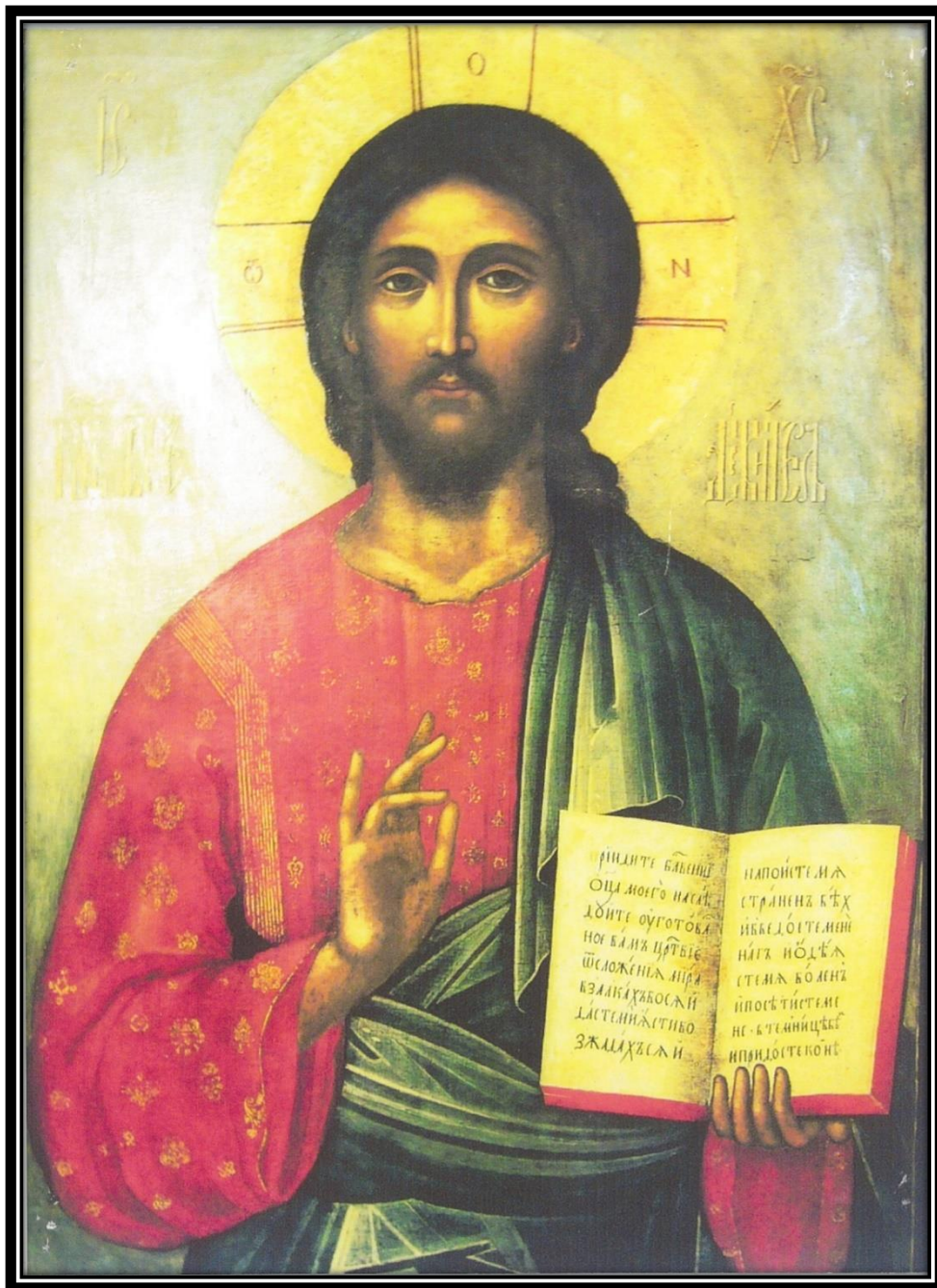
- Have you ever climbed a mountain? People often went up mountains to come close to God, and this is why Jesus took some of his special friends with him.
- Do you remember who went with Jesus to the mountain top? (Peter James and John) What amazing thing happened while they were there? (Jesus' glory was shown to them.) We call this the 'Transfiguration'
- Who did the disciples see talking with Jesus? (Moses and Elijah – they were important prophets in Jewish history, people who passed on messages from God to the Jewish people)
- Why did God show this vision to the disciples?
- What was the special message that God gave to these disciples? (Jesus was God's own dear Son and they should listen to him). This message was to help us to live as Christians today.
- The disciples were very afraid when they heard this voice. Do you remember how Jesus calmed them down? (touched them and told them not to be afraid)
- How can we listen to and follow Jesus today?

- Do you think they were surprised when Jesus asked them to keep it a secret?
Why would he do that?

5-7 year olds: Adapt some of the questions in the 8-12 material and then join with the older group for the 'Liturgical Action'

LITURGICAL ACTION – Ko te Ritenga Karakia

Invite the children to use the icon and the response of the psalm as an act of worship today:



“Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.”

PROFESSION OF FAITH – Panui o te Whakapono

We believe in God the Father,
who made the whole world.
We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God,
who was born in Bethlehem
and lived among us,
who died on the cross for us,
and rose from the dead.
We believe in the Holy Spirit
who brings life and love to us all.
We believe that the Church is one family,
and that one day
we will share everlasting life
with God in heaven.
Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL – Te Īnoinga o te Hunga Whakapono

(Here are some suggested intercessions; you are encouraged to compose your own according to the age and experience of the children)

Leader: With trust and faith in our hearts let us pray to God who has owned us from the beginning for our needs:

- For the Church the sign of God in the world, that the spirit will be seen to live strongly there.

Let us pray to the Lord R Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

- For the poor of the world, for those who have nothing.

Let us pray to the Lord R Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

- That we will take to our hearts people of every nation, especially the poor.

Let us pray to the Lord R Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

- For the gift of patience.

Let us pray to the Lord R Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

Leader: Loving and eternal God, you are all seeing and knowing, bless us and those for whom we pray in hope, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen**

The children re-join the assembly before the prayers over the gifts.

2nd Sunday of Lent, Year B

Liquid Picture

Mark 9:2-10

The 'Transfiguration'

Note to leaders: The following **liquid picture** is appropriate to use with children of any age but especially suitable for **younger children**.

How to do liquid pictures:

Liquid Pictures is a form of drama which allows a story to be presented in a flowing or liquid manner. The process follows this pattern:

- Divide the story or Scriptural passage into five or six main statements.
- Accompany each statement with a simple action that can be held in a freeze frame position.
- Choose one child to say each statement and do a simple action. These children form a straight line facing the audience.
- A leader introduces the story.
- The first child steps forward, repeats the statement two or three times (once is not enough for children to remember!) then freezes.
- The second child steps forward, repeats the statement and freezes.
- The process continues until the last child finishes.
- The leader concludes with a simple statement.

Leader: Jesus took Peter, John and James with him and set off...

Up the mountain!

A special place – a sacred place!

Look at Jesus! Wow!

There's Moses the Law-giver! Wow!

And Elijah the great prophet! Wow!

God said, 'This is My Son'.

This is God's Son! Listen to Jesus!

Leader: Listen to Jesus! Listen and follow!



From 'Just Imagine 3, Even more Creative ways of presenting Scripture for people of all ages' written by Rina Wintour, Mountjoy Enterprises, www.mountjoyenterprises.com.au. Available from the Liturgy Centre.